



Maryland Agriculture Data

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

2002
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

MD-CW3202

November 4, 2002

Wet Conditions Limit Progress

Wet conditions hindered progress for the fourth consecutive week, allowing Maryland farmers only 2.5 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Farmers have not had a week with more than four suitable days for fieldwork since early October. While the precipitation is needed to restore subsoil moisture, many areas are experiencing surpluses in topsoil moisture. The cold, damp weather has prevented fields from drying out, making planting and harvesting activities near impossible in soggy fields. **Topsoil** rated in surplus supply is 24 percent, an increase of 19 percent from the previous week, and 21 percent from two weeks ago. Topsoil moisture is rated 24 percent in surplus supply, 67 percent adequate, 8 percent short, and 1 percent very short. **Subsoil** moisture is rated 4 percent surplus, 42 percent adequate, 42 percent short, and 12 percent very short.

Soybean harvest has fallen further behind schedule. Fields have been too wet for harvesting activities to keep up with normal progress. Soybeans are 34 percent harvested, advancing only 2 percent from the previous week, 41 percent behind last year, and 26 percent behind the five year average. Farmers may be late in planting cover crops meant to follow soybeans if fields don't dry out soon.

Small grain seeding progress was also minimal. **Winter wheat** planting advanced only 1 percent from the previous week. Wheat is 58 percent planted, 17 percent less than last year, and 12 percent less than the five year average. Winter wheat condition is rated 9 percent excellent, 59 percent good, 29 percent fair, 2 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. **Barley** planting is nearing completion at 95 percent, matching last year, and 2 percent ahead of the average. Barley is rated 15 percent in excellent condition, 64 percent good, 20 percent fair, and 1 percent poor.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 2002 (PERCENT)

| ITEM | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | LAST YEAR | AVERAGE 1997-2001 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Harvesting Progress: | | | | |
| Corn, for grain | 93 | 91 | 90 | 85 |
| Sorghum | 70 | 67 | 80 | 70 |
| Soybeans | 34 | 32 | 75 | 60 |
| Tobacco, stripped | 26 | 21 | 39 | 21 |
| Small Grain Seeding: | | | | |
| Barley | 95 | 93 | 95 | 93 |
| Winter Wheat | 58 | 57 | 75 | 70 |
| Hay Harvested: | | | | |
| Other hay, 4 th cutting | 81 | 80 | 99 | 91 |
| Alfalfa, 4 th cutting | 92 | 90 | 98 | 96 |
| Alfalfa, 5 th cutting | 34 | 32 | 71 | 60 |

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 2002 (PERCENT)

| Condition | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Barley | 0 | 1 | 20 | 64 | 15 |
| Winter Wheat | 1 | 2 | 29 | 59 | 9 |
| Range & Pasture | 2 | 8 | 32 | 49 | 9 |

Carrie Davies
Mathematical Statistician

Norman Bennett
State Statistician

Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Suite 202
Annapolis, MD 21401
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

***“You Make it Known - Agriculture Counts”
2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
Coming in December***